

SENATE BILL 1576

By Beavers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65,
relative to switched access services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 65-5-107, is amended by deleting subsections (a), (b) and (c) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following language, redesignating subsequent subsections accordingly:

(a) With the opening of the local telecommunications markets to competition and the reduction in intrastate switched access services and revenues that have traditionally provided a significant source of universal service support, universal service, consisting of basic local exchange telephone service at comparable rates and carrier of last resort obligations, must be preserved for rural incumbent local exchange telephone companies and telephone cooperatives.

(b) The authority shall monitor the continued functioning of universal service mechanisms and shall conduct investigations, issue show cause orders, entertain petitions or complaints, or adopt rules in order to assure that the universal service mechanism is modified and enforced in accordance with subsection (a).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.